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UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 003843

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/RSA AND AF/E. LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [SCUL](#) [XA](#) [AF](#) [UNION](#)

SUBJECT: AU CONVENING PAN AFRICAN CULTURAL CONGRESS

1. Summary/Action Request: The African Union (AU) is convening a Pan African Cultural Congress in Nairobi from December 4-9, 2005 to "review and assess the cultural sector in Africa, and consider the stakes, challenges and opportunities" to develop appropriate programs. The USG has been invited to send an observer to both the Congress and a regular Ministerial Conference (December 10-14). Post requests Department feedback on U.S. participation. End summary/action request.

BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER

The African Union Commission presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Addis Ababa and has the honor to inform the latter that it is organizing the 1st Edition of the Pan African Cultural Congress, which is scheduled to take place from 4th to 9th December 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objectives of the Congress are to review and assess the cultural sector in Africa, and consider the stakes, challenges and opportunities in order to draw orientations, strategies and appropriate programs. About three hundred fifty (350) experts, dignitaries including ministers, professionals and observers in the field of culture are invited to attend in their own capacity.

Given the importance of the Congress and the opportunity it provides for cultural exchange, your Country/Government is cordially invited to participate at its own expense as an Observer to the Congress and to the regular Ministerial Conference which will also take place from 10 to 14 December 2005 in Nairobi. The general theme of both the Congress and the Ministerial Conference is "Culture, Integration and African Renaissance."

The themes of the Congress are as follows:

- Theme 1: Identity, citizenship and common African vision
- Theme 2: Culture and Education
- Theme 3: Memory and Heritage
- Theme 4: Cultural Freedoms and Rights; Legislation
- Theme 5: Cultural Development
- Theme 6: Cultural Dimension of development, economic stakes of Culture; other challenges of development: environment, health, poverty reduction.
- Theme 7: Africa and the World: Role and place of Culture
- Theme 8: Cultural policies in Africa: Theories and Practices
- Cross-Cutting Theme: African culture and new technologies: Stakes, challenges and opportunities.

The outcomes of the Congress will be presented to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Culture and to the Special Session of the AU Summit devoted to Culture and Education to be held in January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan.

END TEXT OF LETTER.

HUDDLESTON